

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

18. (New) A filter monitor for sensing the air pressure in a flow chamber of a vacuum cleaner, having a flow chamber located between a filter and a flow inducing device selectively driven by a power source, comprising:

an electrical circuit including a pressure actuated switch; and

an indicator connected to the circuit;

wherein the pressure actuated switch is closed to complete the circuitry between the indicator and electrical power source in response to the pressure in the flow chamber falling below a pre-determined minimum pressure threshold thereby indicating that the filter requires cleaning or replacement.

19. (New) The filter monitor of claim 18, wherein the indicator is a light.

20. (New) The filter monitor of claim 18, wherein the circuit includes a resistor to reduce voltage across the circuit to a level compatible with the indicator.

21. (New) The filter monitor of claim 18, wherein the indicator is an audible indicator.

22. (New) The filter monitor of claim 20, wherein the circuit includes a latching relay, the latching relay being latched when the indicator is connected to the power source by the pressure actuated switch.

23. (New) The filter monitor of claim 22, wherein the indicator is a light.

24. (New) The filter monitor of claim 23, wherein the circuit further includes a resistor to reduce voltage across to a level compatible with the indicator.

25. (New) The filter monitor of claim 24, wherein the circuit includes a latching relay, the latching relay being latched when the indicator is connected to the indicator by the pressure actuated switch.

26. (New) A vacuum cleaner having a monitor for sensing the pressure in the flow chamber, comprising:

- a housing having an inlet and an outlet;

- a motor mounted in the housing;

- a nozzle housing for receiving an intake device;

- the inlet having a filter disposed between the nozzle housing and the motor;

- an indicator means for indicating a need to service the filter; and

- circuitry connecting the indicator means to a power source including a pressure actuated switch that completes a circuit between the power source and the indicator when the pressure in the flow chamber is below a pre-determined minimum pressure threshold thereby indicating that the filter requires cleaning or replacement.

27. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 26, wherein the circuit includes a latching means for latching the indicator in an indicating condition after a pressure indicating a need to clean or replace the filter has been detected.

28. (New) The vacuum cleaner according to claim 26, wherein the indicator is a light.

29. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 26, wherein the light is an incandescent bulb.

30. (New) The vacuum cleaner of claim 26, wherein the light is a light emitting diode.